

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
WESTERN DIVISION

Clinton Green,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-G-0300-W
)	
MICHAEL J. ASTRUE,)	
Commissioner of Social Security,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

MEMORANDUM OPINION


The plaintiff, Clinton Green, brings this action seeking judicial review of a final adverse decision of the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (the Commissioner) denying his application for Social Security Benefits. Clinton Green filed an application for Social Security Benefits. Thereafter, plaintiff timely pursued and exhausted the administrative remedies available before the Commissioner. Accordingly, this case is now ripe for judicial review pursuant to the provisions of section 205(g) of the Social Security Act (the Act), 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

The sole function of this court is to determine whether the decision of the Commissioner is supported by substantial evidence and whether proper legal standards were applied. Bloodsworth v. Heckler, 703 F.2d 1233, 1239 (11th Cir. 1983). To that

end this court “must scrutinize the record as a whole to determine if the decision reached is reasonable and supported by substantial evidence.” Bloodsworth, at 1239 (citations omitted). Substantial evidence is “such relevant evidence as a reasonable person would accept as adequate to support a conclusion.” Bloodsworth, at 1239. The court has carefully reviewed the entire record in this case and is of the opinion that the Commissioner's decision is supported by substantial evidence and that proper legal standards were applied in reaching that decision. In particular, substantial evidence supported the ALJ's decision to rely upon the treatment notes of plaintiff's treating cardiologist, rather than the medical source opinion from the plaintiff's treating family practitioner. The ALJ correctly relied upon the plaintiff's treating cardiologist "based upon his specialized medical credentials and medical experience." Record 18. Accordingly, the decision of the Commissioner must be affirmed.

A separate order in conformity with this memorandum opinion will be entered.

DONE and ORDERED 21 September 2009.


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
J. FOY GUIN, JR.